

Serial No. 10/784,931

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 4 in accordance with the following:

1. (original) A diagnostic support system, comprising:

a storage device stored with a case database accumulated with multiple pieces of case data including values in a predetermined plural number of fields with respect to symptoms of past patients; and

a computer including an interface, connected to said storage device via a signal line, for accessing said storage device, a processing device, an input device and a display device,

wherein said processing device of said computer: calculates, for every concrete values in respective fields in the case data accumulated in the case database, an influence degree of the value contributing to determine a disease name;

when new patient data including values in some or all of the predetermined fields with respect to a symptom of a new patient are inputted via said input device, calculates a degree of similarity of each piece of case data to the new patient data on the basis of values obtained for respective fields by weighting a difference between a value in each field of the case data and a value in its corresponding field of the new patient data with influence degree of that value in the new patient data;

calculates, for every disease name, a degree of similarity of the disease name on the basis of degrees of similarity in all the case data having this disease name; and

displays on said display device a disease name exhibiting a maximum degree of similarity together with the value in the field in the new patient data of which influence degree is maximum among those used for calculating the degree of similarity.

2. (original) A diagnostic support system according to claim 1, wherein said processing device of said computer displays on said display device a predetermined number of disease names in sequence from the disease name exhibiting the maximum degree of similarity together with their degrees of credibility calculated based on their degrees of similarity.

Serial No. 10/784,931

3. (original) A diagnostic support system according to claim 1, wherein said processing device of said computer displays on said display device values in a predetermined number of fields in the new patient data in sequence from the value exhibiting the maximum influence degree together with their influence degrees.

4. (currently amended) A diagnostic support system according to claim 1, wherein said processing device of said computer, if a value substantially coincident with the value in the new patient data is contained in the case data containing the disease name to be displayed on said display device, displays the value in the field in the new patient data ~~in a special form~~ with a mark.

5. (original) A diagnostic support system according to claim 1, wherein said processing device of said computer displays, when an instruction of displaying similar case data with respect to the disease name displayed on said display device is inputted via said input device, contents of predetermined number of pieces of case data in sequence from the content exhibiting the maximum degree of similarity calculated on said display device.

6. (original) A diagnostic support system according to claim 1, wherein said storage device is connected via a computer network linked to an interface of said computer to other computer.

7. (original) A diagnostic support program for a computer comprising an interface for accessing a storage device stored with a case database accumulated with multiple pieces of case data including values in a predetermined plural number of fields with respect to symptoms of past patients, an input device and a display device, said program making said computer execute:

calculate, for every concrete value in respective fields in the case data accumulated in the case database, an influence degree of the value contributing to determine a disease name;

when new patient data including values in some or all of the predetermined fields with respect to a symptom of a new patient are inputted via said input device, calculate a degree of similarity of each piece of case data to the new patient data on the basis of values obtained for respective fields by weighting a difference between a value in each field of the case data and a value in its corresponding field of new patient data with influence degree of that value in the new patient data;

Serial No. 10/784,931

calculate, for every disease name, a degree of similarity of the disease name on the basis of degrees of similarity in all the case data having this disease name; and

display on said display device a disease name exhibiting a maximum degree of similarity together with the value in the field in the new patient data of which influence degree is maximum among those used for calculating the degree of similarity.

8. (New) A diagnostic support method, comprising:

calculating, for every value in a case database, an influence degree of the value contributing to determination of disease name; and

calculating, for a new patient, a degree of similarity by weighing, with a new patient data field influence degree, a difference between each field of existing case data and a corresponding new patient data field .